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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHIHIKO FUKUMOTO) Examiner: V. Perez Ramos
Application No.: 09/429,530) Group Art Unit: 1765
Filed: October 28, 1999)
For: METHOD FOR FABRICATING)
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE : September 25, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to DE 195 25 521 A1, a copy of which is enclosed and which is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

This document was cited during prosecution of a Chinese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Chinese Search Report, which is dated August 2, 2002, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that the document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

DE 195 25 521 A1 was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 28, 1999 by an incorrect publication number and publication date (DE 196 25 521 A1; 3/21/98). Accordingly, the reference is being cited herein by its correct publication number and publication date.

The other documents listed in the Chinese Search Report also were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 28, 1999.

The concise explanation of relevance for DE 195 25 521 A1 is provided in the Chinese Search Report and by the English language abstract included with the cited art.

U.S. Patent 6,274,059, which is believed to be an English-language counterpart to DE 195 25 521 A1, was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 15, 2002.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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